

## ROBERT BAIRD AND JANE CUMMING BAIRD



Robert Baird was born 18 April 1831 in Antrim, Ireland, a son of Robert and Agnes McGowan Baird, and died at Heber City, Utah, 9 June 1886.

Jane Cumming Baird was born 18 June 1833, at Glasgow, Lenarkshire, Scotland. She was the daughter of Daniel and Jane Nickel Cumming. She died 4 November 1896 at Heber City, Utah.

Robert and Jane were married July 8, 1853, and made their home in Greenock, Scotland, and about this time joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Robert moved from Antrim, Ireland, to Glasgow, Scotland, at the age of 14 where he learned the trade of brass mechanics, serving seven years to complete the course. He was the first man to build sugar refinery machinery. One machine went to Cuba and one to Australia. In 1856 Robert helped put the machinery in two large ships the "Black Prince" and the "Great Eastern," that laid the cable across the Atlantic Ocean.

In 1863 they with their four small children emigrated to America. It took about six months to make the trip from Scotland to Utah. They arrived in October. The first work Robert had in Utah was digging carrots in John Young's garden. He worked in the Kipnel Shop, the first furniture shop in Salt Lake City, running a turning lathe. He spent nine months in Virginia City, Montana, in the gold fields, the family remained in Salt Lake City while he was gone. After returning from Montana the family moved to

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Heber City, Utah, where they took up a homestead on 160 acres south of town. On their farm the deepest well was dug in the valley, a 142 feet to the water level. It was dug and rocked up by their son Daniel.

Robert sold his gold watch to buy flour for the family one winter and had to pay \$25 a hundred pounds.

Robert built a turning lathe and joined Steve Bond and together the two built furniture. He was an Indian War Veteran of the John M. Murdoch Company.

They were the parents of 13 children: twin boys, William and John, Janette, Robert, James, Daniel, Jane, Agnes, William Ghie, Henry, Elizabeth, David and John Alexander.

Jane was a patient wife and endured many hardships with the early pioneers. She was a weaver by trade. She suffered the last 18 years of her life from rheumatism, 11 of which she was entirely helpless, unable to even feed herself. The last song she sang was "The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning." This was Nov. 1, 1896, just three days before she died.